

HEALTH
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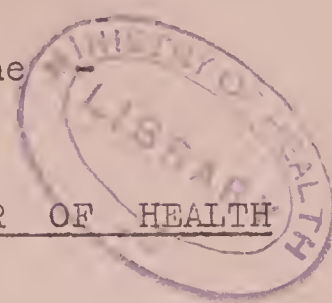
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WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

-- of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



for the Year 1955

R.W. Kind, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Area (In acres)</u>	3,432
<u>Number of inhabited Houses (at 31st. March 1955)</u> according to rate books	5,462
(There are in addition 145 houses combined with shops.)	
<u>Number of Council Houses occupied</u>	1,070
<u>Rateable Value 1st. April 1955</u>	£87,579
<u>Sum represented by a penny rate</u>	£334

POPULATION:

1955 Registrar General's estimate 16,750

TABLE showing the Registrar General's estimate of the changes in population during the past ten years :-

1946 - - - - -	14,230	1951 - - - - -	16,240
1947 - - - - -	14,530	1952 - - - - -	15,470
1948 - - - - -	14,780	1953 - - - - -	15,720
1949 - - - - -	14,980	1954 - - - - -	16,180
1950 - - - - -	15,630	1955 - - - - -	16,750

BIRTHS:

			1954	1955
<u>Live Births:</u>	Legitimate	Male	145	154
		Female	142	143
		Total	287	297
Illegitimate		Male	2	3
		Female	1	5
		Total	3	8
Total Live Births:		Male	147	157
		Female	143	148
		Total	290	305
<u>Stillbirths:</u>	Legitimate	Male	2	Nil
		Female	3	4
		Total	5	4
Illegitimate		Male	Nil	Nil
		Female	Nil	Nil
		Total	Nil	Nil
Total Stillbirths:		Male	2	Nil
		Female	3	4
		Total	5	4



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<u>Birthrate per 1,000 estimated population:</u>						<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Wigston	-	-	-	-	-	17.9	18.3
England and Wales	-	-	-	-	-	15.2	15.0

TABLE showing the changes in the total live births and in the birth rates during the past ten years :-

Year	Total Live Births Wigston	Birth Rates (per 1,000 population)		
		Wigston	Leicester- shire	England and Wales
1946	319	22.4	20.6	19.1
1947	359	24.7	21.2	20.5
1948	331	22.39	18.84	17.9
1949	283	19.0	17.35	16.7
1950	253	16.1	16.17	15.8
1951	262	16.07	16.02	15.5
1952	280	18.9	15.67	15.3
1953	259	16.4	15.43	15.5
1954	290	17.9	14.51	15.2
1955	305	18.3	14.78	15.0

DEATHS:

						<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Total	<u>Number of Deaths:</u>	Male	-	-	-	82	71
		Female	-	-	-	70	65
		Total	-	-	-	152	136

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population :

Wigston	-	-	-	9.3	8.2
England and Wales	-	-	-	11.3	11.7

TABLE SHOWING changes in the total number of deaths and in the death rates during the past ten years :

Year	Total Deaths Wigston	Death Rates (per 1,000 population)		
		Wigston	Leicestershire	England and Wales
1946	157	11.1	10.7	11.5
1947	164	11.3	11.3	12.0
1948	147	9.9	9.77	10.8
1949	140	9.4	10.68	11.7
1950	145	9.2	10.28	11.6
1951	172	10.5	10.74	12.5
1952	161	10.4	10.06	11.3
1953	133	8.5	10.05	11.4
1954	152	9.3	10.29	11.3
1955	136	8.2	10.57	11.7

There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :</u>					<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
No. of deaths:	Legitimate	-	-	- Male	3	2
		-	-	- Female	2	Nil
				Total	5	2
	Illegitimate	-	-	- Male	Nil	Nil
		-	-	- Female	Nil	Nil
				Total	Nil	Nil
	Total Infant Deaths-	-	-		5	2

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births:

Wigston	-	-	-	-	17.2	6.5
England and Wales	-	-	-	-	25.5	24.9

TABLE showing deaths of infants under one year and infant mortality rates during the past ten years:

Year	Total Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000 live births		
		Wigston	Leicestershire	England and Wales
1946	14	44	36	43
1947	22	64	43	41
1948	17	51.3	32.2	34
1949	7	24.7	27.1	32
1950	7	27.6	27.0	29.8
1951	5	19.0	25.1	29.6
1952	11	39.2	26.5	27.6
1953	99	34.7	28.0	26.8
1954	5	17.2	28.1	25.5
1955	2	6.5	22.5	24.9

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:</u>						<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
No. of Deaths	Legitimate	-	-	-	Male	3	2
		-	-	-	Female	2	Nil
					Total	5	2
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	Nil	Nil

Causes of Death.

Registrar General's Classification.							1954				1955	
						Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	--	--			3	-	3		3	-	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-			-	-	-		-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	--	-		-	-	-		-	--	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-	-	--	-	-		--	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease	-	-	-	-	-	--	-		1	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-				3	-	3		-	2	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus					2	-	2		3	-	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-			-	2	2		-	-	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-			-	1	1		-	-	-
14.	Malignant neoplasms, lymphatic and other	-	-	-	-	6	5	11		8	8	16
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	1	1
16.	Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	-	-	--	-	9	8	17		6	10	16
18.	Coronary disease, angina	-	-			11	16	27		15	8	23
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-				5	1	6		1	1	2
20.	Other heart disease	-	-	-		11	12	23		9	15	24
21.	Other circulatory disease	-	-			2	5	7		4	4	8
22.	Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		2	-	2
23.	Pneumonia	--	--	-	-	6	5	11		4	4	8
24.	Bronchitis	--	--	-	-	4	-	4		3	-	3
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	-	-	-	1	2	3		1	2	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-				3	1	4		-	3	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea					1	1	2		-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-			1	1	2		-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of the prostate	-				1	-	1		2	-	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-				-	-	-		-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	-			2	-	2		-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	-	-	-	8	8	16		3	3	6
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	-	-			2	-	2		4	-	4
34.	All other accidents	-	-	-		1	2	3		1	2	3
35.	Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		2	-	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-				-	-	-		-	-	-
Total deaths, all causes						82	70	152		71	65	136

CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

IMMUNISATION :

Immunisation facilities are provided free under the National Health Service Act. 215 children under the age of six years received their primary immunisation during the year whilst 133 children received further treatment to maintain their immunity.

TUBERCULOSIS :

There were 3 deaths from the pulmonary form of this disease during the year under review.

New cases are summarized as follows :

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	5	6
Non-pulmonary ..	1	Nil	1
TOTALS	2	5	7

In addition to these cases 9 further cases of pulmonary tuberculosis came to reside within the District.

The total number of cases residing within the District at the close of the year was as follows :

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	71	54	125
Non-pulmonary ...	4	7	11
TOTALS	75	61	136

B.C.G. vaccination was offered to children of school leaving age for the first time in 1955. 26 boys and 31 girls accepted it. It is to be hoped that the standard of acceptance will be higher in future years when the scheme becomes better appreciated.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified :

Measles	420
Whooping Cough	30
Scarlet Fever	2
Food poisoning	2
Dysentery	67
Post infectious Encephalitis ..	1

TABLE showing the monthly distribution of certain infectious diseases.

	Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
1954	Measles	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	5	-	-	2	7
	Whooping Cough	2	3	3	4	1	-	2	1	7	1	7	1	32
	Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3

1955	Measles	-	-	-	42	91	177	73	36	1	-	-	-	420
	Whooping Cough	2	3	-	1	1	2	4	-	10	7	-	-	30
	Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2

The National Assistance Act, 1948 :
and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

No action was necessary under these Acts during 1955.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

For the following information I am indebted to Mr. F.B. Ashbridge, Sanitary Inspector, whose work during the year under review it represents.

Water Supply.

Mains water is supplied by the Leicester Corporation and is piped direct into 5,420 houses to serve a population of 16,630. A further 36 houses having 100 occupants receive the same water from standpipes. The quality of the water is entirely satisfactory but the pressure of the supply varies considerably in different districts.

6 Houses rely upon well water and represent a population of 20. Two wells were cleansed during the year.

Sewage Disposal.

With the exception of parts of East Wigston the District appears to be adequately sewered.

The long awaited extension of the Councils sewage disposal works has commenced and it is hoped to report in the next year that disposal of sewage no longer threatens the public health.

There are in the area no earthclosets, privies or ashpits. 13 cesspools are cleaned fortnightly by Council employees whilst 23 pail closets, mostly chemical, are similarly dealt with at weekly intervals.

Public Cleansing.

The collection of refuse is carried out at approximately weekly intervals whilst trade wastes are collected from the 60 premises producing these.

The salvaging of ferrous and non-ferrous metals continued as did the collection of waste paper.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area :

Total number of complaints received during the year - - 284

Total number of defects or nuisances discovered - - - 484

Total number of inspections made :

	<u>Inspections</u>
Animal keeping	66
Bakehouses	16
Dairies and milk retail premises	62
Drainage works	122
Dwelling-houses (all purposes)	620
Food premises	132
Rodent control	197
Refuse collection and disposal	518
Schools	17
Shops	60
Slaughter-house and meat inspection	162
Tents, vans, sheds, etc.	12
Verminous premises	15
Water supplies	28
Workshops	63
Other inspections	269
Smoke observations	28
Total inspection	<u>2287</u>

Notices served during the year :

<u>Preliminary :</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Public Health</u>
Outstanding on January 1st. 1955	Nil	Nil
Issued during the year	38	488
Complied with during the year	35	468
Statutory action necessary	7	7
Outstanding on December 31st. 1955	3	20

14 Statutory Notices were served during the year, all of which were complied with.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

A full time trained rodent operator is employed.

All Council property is treated regularly and public sewers twice yearly. Householders are offered a free service.

Smoke Abatement.

28 observations were made on alleged smoke nuisances.

A common cause for complaint is the burning of trade wastes such as rubber, leather and wood dust in appliances totally unsuited for the purpose. Co-operation of the offenders is sought but is sometimes given reluctantly.

Shops Act, 1950.

6 defects in sanitary conveniences were found during the year 5 of which were remedied.

4 further defects in washing facilities were found which together with 2 defects of temperature were also remedied.

Regulated Buildings.

The 7 dwelling vans in the area include 6 temporary vans which are owned by travelling showmen and which are laid up in this District for the winter.

12 inspections were made. No conditions were found which required any action.

There is one house let in lodgings. Two inspections were made.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Under this Act 2 premises were licensed. 12 inspections were made during the year, no contraventions of the Act being discovered.

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

Under this Act 2 premises are registered for the purpose of upholstering. No contraventions of regulations have been found.

Eradication of Vermin.

10 houses were found to require treatment to eradicate fleas and bed bugs. 5 of the infested properties were owned by this Council.

Disinfestation was satisfactorily carried out in every case by stripping and treating with gammexane insecticide applied under pressure. The occupiers were advised of the steps necessary to prevent recurrences.

Inspection of all Council houses is made prior to reletting on a change of tenant.

THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Ice Cream.

66 premises are registered for sale of ice cream.

10 samples were taken during the year, 6 proving to be Grade one, 4 Grade two.

Milk: Dairies and Distributors.

i) Dairies:

Number on Register	2
Number of inspections made	8
Number of contraventions found	Nil
Number of contraventions remedied	Nil

ii) Distributors:

Number on Register	30
Number of inspections made	54
Number of contraventions found	7
Number of contraventions remedied	7

Milk Sampling.

<u>Designated Milk:</u> Total number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	105
Number found satisfactory	95

<u>Ordinary Milk:</u> Total number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	4
Number found satisfactory	4

Biological Examination of Milk.

The quarterly examination of milk produced and sold in this District, made with a view to detecting the presence of living tubercle bacilli, and Brucella abortus was continued.

6 such samples were taken, all proving satisfactory.

Milk, (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

<u>Licences issued:</u> 1 Dealers, Pasteurised	24
Sterilised	13
2 Supplementary, Pasteurised	2
Sterilised	1

Milk, (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

<u>Licences issued:</u> 1 Dealers, Tuberculin Tested	6
2 Supplementary, Tuberculin Tested	2

Meat and Other Foods.

There are two licensed slaughter houses in the area in which 3,783 animals were killed during the year. 3,731 of these animals were examined at the time of slaughter. There is one Knackers yard in the area and 10 visits were paid to it during the year.

Number of Inspections.

Meat Shops and Stores	30
Places where food other than meat is kept or prepared for sale	120

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	364	Nil	139	2767	513	Nil
Number inspected	363	-	138	2717	513	Nil
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	24	Nil	Nil	1	6	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis.	6.6%	Nil	Nil	0.07%	1.2%	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	22	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	6.06%	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.4%	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1					
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1					
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil					

HOUSING ACT, 1936 : PARTS II AND III
HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954 : SECTION I

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

Part 1. The total problem.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936. | 400 |
| (b) | Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (a). | 15 |

Part 2. Orders already made etc.

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| (c) | Number of houses in (a) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by local authority. | 21 |
| (d) | Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative. | 7 |

Part 3. Action in the first five years.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (e) | Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years. | 18 |
| (f) | Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister. | 102 |
| (g) | Number of houses under (c), (d), (e) and (f) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation. | Nil |
| (h) | Number of houses under (c), (d), (e) and (f) to be demolished in the five years. | 150 |
| (i) | Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. | 2 |

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	95
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	160
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under (sub-head) (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	39
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	70
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	41

CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

	<u>Number of dwelling-houses demolished in the period</u>		<u>Number of Persons displaced</u>
	Unfit Houses	Other Houses	
(1)	Land coloured pink and pink hatched yellow	11 Nil	16
(2)	Land coloured grey	Nil Nil	Nil

HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS.

<u>Houses demolished or closed in the period</u>		<u>Number of Houses Persons displaced</u>	
(1)	<u>Housing Act, 1936</u>		
	(a) Demolished as a result of formal of informal procedure (Section 11)	1	Nil
	(b) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force.	Nil	Nil
	(c) Parts of building closed (Section 12).	Nil	Nil
(2)	<u>Local Govt. (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953.</u>		
	Closed as a result of closing orders	4	7

REPAIRS in the period.

	<u>Number of Houses</u>
(1) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts.	45

REPAIRS in the period (Contd)

Number of Houses

- (2) Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice - Houses in which defects were remedied.
- (a) By owners 7
- (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil
- (3) Housing Act, 1936 - action after service of formal notice Sections, 9,10,11 and 16.
- Houses made fit.
- (a) By owners Nil
- (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil
- (4) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) Nil

UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

No unfit houses are in temporary use.

PURCHASES OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT

Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the period.

Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

The extent of overcrowding continues to remain uncertain.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

- (a) Number of applications for reconditioning grants. 24
- (b) Number of applications approved. 13
- (c) Number of applications refused 11

NEW HOUSES.

Number of applications for Local Authority houses at the end of the year 521

Programme of new Local Authority houses:

Erected during the year 62

Under construction at end of year 60

NEW HOUSES (Contd)

Number of houses erected during the year by private enterprise	228
Number of houses in course of construction at the end of the year by private enterprise	241
Total number of post-war houses completed -	
a) Local Authority	710
b) Private Enterprise	607

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspect- ions	Written Notices	
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	2	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	110	8	2	-
(3) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	8	4	-	-
Total	125	14	2	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pro-secutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred .		
			To H.M. Inspect- or	by H.M. Inspect- or	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate venti- lation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conven- iences :					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-	-

3. OUTWORK

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers on List
Wearing apparel, making etc.	141

APPENDIX "A"

I am indebted to Mr. G.J. Wootton, Surveyor to the Wigston Urban District Council for the following report :-

RAINFALL IN 1955

at Wigston U.D.C. Sewage Farm, Countesthorpe in the
County of Leicestershire

Rain
Gauge

{ Diameter of funnel: 8 inches
{ Height of top above ground: 9 inches
{ Height of ground above sea level: 256.85ft.

Month	Total Depth	Greatest fall in 24 hours		Number of days with	
		Inches	Date	0.1 inches or more	0.4 inches or more
January	1.69	.40	10	16	10
February	1.61	.39	4	16	12
March	2.39	.72	25 26	11	8
April	.92	.35	28	9	8
May	3.53	1.11	17	22	18
June	3.24	.99	7	11	10
July	1.09	.69	17	4	3
August	1.34	.41	2	10	6
September	1.13	.34	22	11	6
October	1.48	.49	5	11	8
November	1.15	.39	6	10	7
December	2.51	.70	11	20	15
TOTALS	22.11			151	111

APPENDIX "B"

DYSENTERY IN WIGSTON FIELDS

On February 14th, copies were received of reports by the Public Health Laboratory on five samples of faeces sent in for examination by a General Practitioner. The samples had been taken from patients of school age living in the Wigston Fields area and were reported on as being infected with *Shigella sonnei*.

It was quickly ascertained that the children concerned attended the Wigston Fields Infant's School. Enquiries at this school revealed that 10 children had been absent during the previous two weeks with diarrhoea lasting some two to three days and that a further 12 children were still absent with a similar complaint. The names of past and present absentees were taken and their homes visited.

The description of the illness in each case suggested a diagnosis of dysentery and it was arranged that samples of faeces should be provided by the members of all affected families. 43 contacts or suspected cases were examined in this way and by February 18th, 25 of these were reported as infected, among them a teacher at the school. By this time a further 19 contacts had come to light and had been examined in a similar way. Of these 12 were found to be infected.

As it appeared probable that at least one quarter of the children attending the school were infected and that attendance at the school facilitated the spread of the infection it was recommended that the school should be closed. This was done for a period of one week.

Among the families of the children examined were 43 older brothers and sisters attending the Wigston Magna Junior School, Abingdon Secondary Modern School and Kibworth Grammar School. Investigation of these children showed 8 of them to be infected. These were immediately excluded from school together with 2 canteen workers whose children were found to be infected. 139 further contacts were investigated, 43 of them being found to be infected.

During the course of the epidemic 93 infected persons were discovered of whom 68 had clinical manifestations of dysentery and 25 showed no symptoms whatsoever. All infected persons were referred to their own general practitioner for treatment. 76 individuals became free from infection after one course of treatment, 15 cases required two such courses and 2 cases a third. All infections were cleared up by 10th. May.

It is felt that prompt action in defining the extent of the infection, closing the Wigston Fields Infant's School, excluding infected persons from other schools and securing the cooperation of the general practitioners held the epidemic to a limited area and prevented its becoming widespread.

The initial spread of the epidemic was facilitated by two factors. Firstly, the reluctance of parents to consult their general practitioner about 'such a trivial complaint' as diarrhoea, 23 out of the 68 cases did not do so. Secondly, the presence of a large number of symptomless carriers.

